



Climate Smart Kingston Commission
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
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**Minutes to the Climate Smart Kingston Commission August 30, 2016
Kingston City Hall, Council Chambers 4:30-6:00 PM**

Commission Members (Voting): Azriel Alleyne (excused), Elizabeth Broad, Pat Courtney Strong (excused), Michael D'Arcy, Emilie, Hauser, Nick Hvozda, Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Sarina Pepper, Karen Sullivan, John Wackman (excused)

Commission Members (Non-Voting):

Nolan Bastianelli (excused), Casey Schwarz, Amanda LaValle (Ulster County Dept. of the Environment) represented by Alanna Henneberry

Ex-Officio Members: Suzanne Cahill (Kingston Planning Dept. excused), Brenna Robinson (Kingston Community & Economic Development-excused), Julie Noble (Kingston Parks & Recreation, Commission Chairperson), NYS Assembly Member Kevin Cahill represented by Jillian Nodiak, Kingston Common Council (not present), Kingston City Engineer (not present), Kingston Dept. of Public Works (not present)

Guests

- I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:38PM. There were no guests present and no public comment.
- II. Review and Approval June and July 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion duly made by Commissioner D'Arcy and seconded by Commissioner Sullivan, the minutes to the 6-22-16 meeting and 7-27-16 meeting as amended were unanimously approved by the voting commissioners in attendance.
- III. Special Presentation by Melissa Everett:** Melissa Everett, Executive Director of Sustainable Hudson Valley, called in and gave a presentation on present Sustainable Hudson Valley initiatives including (a) electric vehicles; (b) Sol-Art Working Group formed to inspire and educate communities on the potential of renewable energy integrated with public art to stimulate curiosity and conversations, involve artists as ambassadors, create eco-tourism destinations and showcase the creative economy; (c) Eco-Districts and Local Revitalization in which local communities are learning laboratories for sustainability and touch points where policy meets practice being big enough to matter but small enough to manage. Community sustainability and revitalization efforts can include bikeways, community gardens, murals or downtown revitalization strategies, working together in a way that reminds each other of the importance of the effort. "Placemaking" is a framework for designing public spaces that help revitalize the built environment and foster greener development and can include climate change consideration. Melissa concluded the presentation with a reminder of key dates such as Sustainable Saturday on September 17 in Kingston (see below under III_b and a tentative 10-1-16 deadline for expression of interest in the 2017 Solarize campaign.

III. Old Business

1. Energy and Renewables

- a. **Residential Energy Efficiency Campaign Working Group:** Commissioner D’Arcy scheduled the working group meeting for 4PM on Sustainable Saturday at the Kirkland Hotel. Commissioner D’Arcy also reported on the audit campaign currently focusing on the vicinity of Washington and Lindermann Avenues and further reported on that approximately 500 retro fits in the 10 county Hudson Valley area.
 - b. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory/Energy Tracking Working Group:** Commissioner Hvozda reported that the working group is expected to be meeting shortly. Trying to get info from Wegowise and facility dude to either purchase the software and/or get a person to use it.
 - c. **Wendell Flex Tech Study Review:** Tabled
 - d. **NYS Solar Permitting Progress:** Tabled with Commissioner D’Arcy and Courtney Strong to review. Commissioner McEvoy will resend information on drafting the form from NYSERDA as is done in other NYS communities with architectural review boards.
 - e. **Solarize Campaigns: As an action item,** Commissioner Broad will follow up with Commissioner Wackman on the next stage of the Solarize campaigns.
 - f. **CCA Working Group Update:** Cape Light Compact is a CCA in Cape Cod coming to a next meeting of the CCA Working Group. Looking into models for a local CCA.
<http://www.capelightcompact.org/>
2. **Land Use and Transportation**
- a. **Zoning Code Recommendations:** Commissioner Pepper reported on zoning recommendations consistent with the Climate Action Plan and will send out her zoning submission to City Planning Dept. for review by the commission as an action item. Borrowing language from other communities such as Red Hook NY was discussed. As action items, Brenna Robinson can reach out to Planning Dept. as will Commissioner McEvoy with respect to Pace Law which has indicated an interest in providing sustainable zoning language.
 - b. **Natural Resources Inventory Update:** John Mickelson has been chosen as the consultant for NRI/Open Space Index project; Chairperson reported that the contract should be signed shortly. CSK input will be requested with respect to maps and index.
3. **Vehicles**
- a. **Municipal EV Purchases Update:** Funding has come through for the purchase of two Chevy Volt electric vehicles by the City.
 - b. **National Drive Electric Week Planning: Sustainable Saturday;** Commissioner Broad and Alanna Henneberry from Ulster County Dept. of the Environment reported on the many participants and will send participation form and Facebook page information to the commissioners for additional outreach and tabling opportunities. Julie has material for table for CSK and Parks and Recreation.
<https://driveelectricweek.org/event.php?eventid=837>
<https://www.facebook.com/events/992088094238872/>
4. **Adaptation and Resilience**
- a. **Fall Climate Adaptive Design (CAD) Studio Update:** Cornell landscape architect students working under Professor Josh Cerra and in coordination with Libby Zemaitis from Hudson River Estuary Program will review strategies regarding on Block Park and Island Park. The Climate-Adaptive Design (CAD) studio is a research effort in partnership with Cornell Landscape Architecture, Cornell Water Resources Institute and the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program.
 - b. **Sea Level Rise Implementation Learning Group Update:** Scenic Hudson and Consensus Building Institute will meet at Long Dock in Beacon this fall with representatives from communities that went through the sea level rise task force process including Kingston, Catskill, Piermont and Stony Point to consider Waterfront Task Force Report implementation.

IV. New Business

- a. **City budget process, CSK input:** Budget sustainability ideas were reviewed. The commission was asked for input. The Chairperson, as an action item, may provide ideas that are relevant and consistent with Climate Action Plan and that can save funds.
- b. **Budget:** Upon motion by Commissioner Hauser which was seconded by Commissioner D'Arcy, the voting commissioners present unanimously resolved, as Resolution #5 of 2016, to ask the City of Kingston for a \$1000 allocation in the Parks & Recreation budget for marketing and branding materials and for tabling equipment for presentations and special events.
- c. **Kingston Common Council Liaison:** Commissioner D'Arcy is expected to attend the Common Council Public Safety Committee meetings and report back to the commission.
- d. **PON 3298 Clean Energy Communities Program:** By completing four of the ten high-impact actions see attached Appendix A to these minutes for reference), the applying jurisdiction shall earn the Clean Energy Community designation as well as a grant, up to \$250,000 per municipality with no local cost share, to support additional clean energy projects. To earn the Clean Energy Community designation, at least two of the high-impact actions must be completed after August 1, 2016. Clean Fleet Electric vehicles should count since it is after August 1.
<http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Funding-Opportunities/Current-Funding-Opportunities/PON-3298-Clean-Energy-Communities-Program>

V. Announcements/Communications/Events:

- a. **USGS Stream Gauge on Rondout Creek:** Commissioner Hauser discussed possibilities for collaboration with the US Geological Survey concerning restoration of the gauge for use in emergency management.
- b. **CAC Anchorage Resolution:** Coast Guard proposed rulemaking regarding vessel anchorages was discussed. The Mayor submitted comments in August while the CAC is helping draft a resolution for the Common Council.

VI. Adjournment: Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Broad and seconded by Commissioner Pepper the commissioners present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:17pm.

NOTE THAT ALL WEBSITE LINKS AND INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE APPENDIX HERETO ARE FOR GENERAL REFERENCE AND THAT THE CSKC MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING SAME

Vision: The City of Kingston will be a 'Model City' of energy, environmental and economic sustainability by 2020 within city government operations and throughout the community.

APPENDIX A to the CSKC Minutes dated 8-30-16

CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Local governments must complete four of the following 10 High Impact Actions to earn a Clean Energy Community designation and qualify to apply for grant funding. At least two actions must be completed after August 1, 2016.

The High-Impact Actions include:

1. **Benchmarking**
Adopt a policy to report the energy use of municipal buildings on an annual basis. If the applicant is a large city, town, or village, it must also adopt legislation requiring the annual disclosure of energy use in large private buildings.
2. **Clean Energy Upgrades**
Achieve a 10 percent reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions from municipal buildings through energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy.
3. **LED Street Lights**
Convert at least half of the municipal cobra-head-style street lights within the jurisdiction to energy-efficient LED technology.
4. **Clean Fleets**
Install an EV charging station and/or other alternative fuel infrastructure or deploy alternative fuel vehicles in the municipal fleet.
5. **Solarize**
Undertake a solarize campaign to increase the number of solar rooftops in the jurisdiction through group purchasing, locally organized community education and outreach, and a limited time offer.
6. **Unified Solar Permit**
Pass legislation to adopt the New York State Unified Solar Permit to reduce costs and delays for solar projects in the jurisdiction.
7. **Energy Code Enforcement Training**
Train code compliance officers and other municipal officials in best practices in energy code enforcement through training, collaborative plans reviews, and joint onsite inspections of local construction projects.
8. **Climate Smart Communities Certification**
Earn Climate Smart Community (CSC) Certification at the certified, bronze, silver or gold levels through compliance with this robust, comprehensive rating system.
9. **Community Choice Aggregation**
Transition to a cleaner, more affordable energy supply by facilitating the aggregated purchase of electric supply for residential and small commercial customers within the jurisdiction.
10. **Energize NY Finance**: Allows property owners to pay back the cost of clean energy upgrades to their commercial or non-profit property through a special charge on their property tax bill.

Website link: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities>